

# The Daily Astorian.

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No. 135.

## AN EX-SLAVE OWNER OF HIS MASTER'S ESTATE.

Yesterday a prominent citizen, who has obtained a competency, and who can afford to take his life leisurely, settled himself into an easy chair in his office and remarked: "I can tell you a story in real life that is full of romance. It illustrates the truth of the old saying that truth is stronger than fiction."

The reporter became attentive, and the prominent citizen proceeded:

"In ante-war times there lived in Meriwether county a don't-care sort of a negro named Jack Wilson, who could neither read nor write. He had gained his freedom some way or other, and gained his livelihood by acting as a sort of director-general to famous horses in his neighborhood. Jack became attached to a servant girl who was owned by a man named Gages, one of the wealthiest men in Georgia, who owned thousands of acres of land, and, with his family, lived in lordly style. The servant girl was a bright mulatto, and Jack was a shade darker. They made a match of it, and were married under the order of things that existed in war times. At the same time Jack had a slave-time wife in Virginia, but she was as black as coal. When the war closed and the slaves were declared free, Jack took his Georgia wife to be his partner for life, and by living with her for a stated period she became his wife according to law. As soon as he was married, Jack showed a sudden spirit of industry that astonished everybody.

His careless habits were thrown aside, and he went to work with a will. The wealthy Gage, once his master, died, and his acres fell to the possession of the heirs. Jack still worked on the place, and was saving and was careful. The Gage family had lost everything except their land. Hundreds of slaves were freed, and the vast fortune was gone. The heirs could not adapt themselves to the situation. Finally pressed, they sold fifty acres of land to Jack; and they wanted more money, and Jack stood their security at the La Grange bank, and when they were unable to pay he would take up the notes at bank and trade for a piece of the Gages' plantation. He worked with a vengeance, and all his family prospered. In the meantime his old master's children continued to sell him parts of the old homestead. Finally he owned it all and was rich. Three years ago he decided that it was his duty to provide for his old Virginia wife; so he sent for her, and she, with her children, came to him. She was given a house on the plantation, and is well provided for. Jack owns now the magnificent place of about 1,500 within three miles of White Sulphur Springs, in Meriwether county. He is sixty years old, and his children are settled around him, and all are contented and happy and industrious. He owns fifteen or sixteen mules, and is noted for keeping the best stock in the county. His credit at the La Grange bank is good, and he can borrow all the money he wants on his simple note of hand."

"How much is he worth?"

"I should say about \$30,000, and every cent of it has been made since the war. It is a remarkable story of how a slave succeeds his master in the ownership of a vast landed estate. I passed the place a few months ago, and the Georgia wife came to the door to give me a drink of water. Everything was neat and clean about the place, the yard was nicely swept, the barns appeared well filled, and in the lots I saw piles upon piles of manure carefully sheltered. It is a model plantation. Why, I have seen on Jack's place 180 acres of corn under one fence."

"Is he educating his children?"

"Yes; although he cannot read and write, he sees the advantage of an education, and is giving his children the benefit of schooling. The story is a true one, and shows what can be done right here in Georgia by pluck and industry. The old adage is true: 'There is more in the man than there is in the land.'—Atlanta, Ga., Constitution."

## The Pacific Hemlock Spruce.

Great forests of the Pacific hemlock spruce (Morton's) extend along the coast from California to Alaska. It is one of the most beautiful and delicately-foliated evergreens, and very spiky, with a broad ground base. They are even more spiky than the eastern Canadian. These tall spruces farther north, are clad in denser masses of darker green verdure, clothed from the base 100 to 200 feet upward, or more. The body is from two to six feet, and occasionally eight feet in diameter. But along the coast territory mentioned the tree is only from sixty to seventy feet in height, and rarely over two feet through. The thickened lower branches aid in tempering the climate in all seasons, and the foliage, unlike redwoods and their like, precipitates little moisture. It is noteworthy how admirably this tree rallies and thickens in the top when broken off by the tempest—which often takes the conceit out of its too ardent aspirations, nature's testimony that it bears training to any reasonable extent, responsive to the bidding of the Master. It is one of the best shelter trees known, wherever it will flourish at all, whether for the orchard, garden, yards, or for game of all sorts.

Contrary to experience and observations relative to most other timbers, the old matured heartwood is more perishable than the young and sappy poles and branches where they are exposed to the seasons, the latter being less shaky, and absorbing and retaining moisture less readily. For this reason the heartwood is almost solely used for interior work, where it is little subjected to the extremes of outer temperature, as in the case of rude rafters, where, duly seasoned with the bark on, they are singularly lasting and very elastic, with much of the snap and spring of the yew and cedar, combined with a due degree of strength.

Only in the cold forests of California, contiguous to rivers or cold creek banks at the southern limit of its growth, is the Pacific hemlock spruce ever found much over two feet in diameter and about sixty or eighty feet high. Up to extreme age it preserves the perfect, symmetrical, spire form, and is altogether less marred by unsightly dead limbs, than its kindred of the east. The same observation applies to Alaska. If the tree were more exposed than in its native coast climate, it might take on a somewhat broader conic style. In the young state, say from ten to fourteen feet high or more, the bark is relatively smooth and even, branches exactly level, thin, fan-like, long and slender, with cherry-brown bark.—West Shore.

## The Great Wall of China.

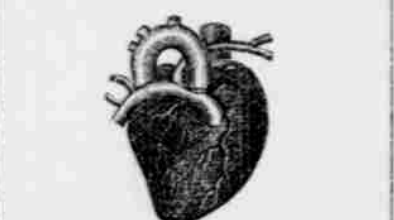
An American engineer who, being engaged in the construction of a railway in China, has had unusually favorable opportunities of examining the famous great wall, built to obstruct the incursions of the Tartars, gives the following account of this wonderful work: The wall is 1,728 miles long, 18 feet wide, and 15 feet thick at the top. The foundation throughout is of solid granite, the remainder of compact masonry. At intervals of between two hundred and three hundred yards towers rise up twenty-five to forty feet high, and twenty-four feet in diameter. On the top of the wall, and on both sides of it, are masonry parapets, to enable the defenders to pass unseen from one tower to another. The wall itself is carried from point to point in a perfectly straight line, across valleys and plains and over hills, without the slightest regard to the configuration of the ground, sometimes plunging down into abysses a thousand feet deep. Brooks and rivers are bridged over by the wall, while on both banks of larger streams strong flanking towers are placed.

The Canadian Pacific railway company has sold \$9,000,000 of the \$10,000,000 of stock recently offered at 60, also \$30,000,000 of bonds at the same rate.



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The value of real estate is higher than ever before in New York. The ground for the Drexel building was bought at the rate of \$14,000,000 per acre, but since that a lot at the corner of Broadway and an Exchange place has been sold at the rate of \$15,000,000 an acre. The best land on Broadway is worth \$2,000,000 an acre.

## MOTHERS, READ.

GENTS—About nine years ago I had a child two years old and almost dead. The doctor I had attending her could not tell what ailed her. I asked him if he did not think it was worms. He said no. However, this did not satisfy me, as I had conceived in my own mind that she had. I obtained a bottle of **DR. C. MCMAINE'S CLEANSING VERMIFUGE**. I gave her a teaspoonful in the morning and another at night, after which she passed seventy-two worms and was a well child. Since then I have never been without it in my family. The health of my children remained so good that I had neglected watching their ailments until about three weeks ago, when two of them presented the same sickly appearance that Fanny did nine years ago. So I thought I must be worms, and went to work at once with a bottle of **DR. C. MCMAINE'S VERMIFUGE**. Before four of my children, their ages being as follows: Alice, 8 years; Stanley, 4 years; Emma, 6 years; John, 3 years. Now comes the result: Alice and Emma came out all right, but Stanley passed forty-five and Johnny about sixty worms. The result was so gratifying that I just two days in showing the wonderful effect of your Vermifuge around I feel, and now have the worms on exhibition in my study. Yours truly, JOHN TIPPEL.

The genuine **DR. C. MCMAINE'S VERMIFUGE** is manufactured only by Fleming Bros., Pittsburgh, Pa., and bears the signatures of C. McMane and Fleming Bros. It is never made in St. Louis or Wheeling. Be sure you get the genuine. Price, 25 cents a bottle.

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